United Nations A/67/702–S/2013/28

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
18 January 2013
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 105
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 17 January 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, I should like to draw your attention to the following information:

The Al-Qaida terrorist organization, acting through the Nusrah Front, its terrorist arm in Syria, is continuing its terrorist campaign. On 16 January 2013, two Nusrah Front suicide bombers detonated two cars packed with explosives in the city of Idlib, which is located in north-west Syria and is the capital of the Syrian province situated on the Syrian-Turkish border. This cowardly act of terrorism killed 22 persons and injured 30 others, and caused significant material damage to homes and infrastructure at the site of the blast. Those blasts come on the heels of the tragedy caused by armed terrorist groups when they bombard Aleppo University. The death toll from that attack now stands at 87 persons, including students and civilians who had been forcibly removed from their homes by armed groups and had taken shelter in the student dormitories. It should be noted that, over the past few weeks and months, the Syrian law enforcement agencies have thwarted dozens of suicide attacks against Syrian cities and villages, saving the lives of hundreds of innocent civilians. It is also very important to note that the terrorist attacks in Idlib were acts of vengeance against its citizens, who two days prior to this massacre had participated in protest marches demanding that the terrorists leave their city. In order to silence the free voices of those demanding an end to the violence and terrorism in Syria, the terrorist groups have threatened to wage an unrelenting campaign of suicide attacks against the residents of other Syrian cities and villages that have rejected their presence. Those residents have also called on the regional and international powers that are supporting the terrorists and justifying their crimes to desist from doing so.

Syria reiterates its determination to implement the Security Council resolutions concerning counter-terrorism, including resolution 1373 (2001), which provides that States shall prevent and suppress the financing and facilitation of

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terrorist acts, and refrain from providing, directly or indirectly, any form of assistance to terrorists. It also reiterates the importance of countering terrorism, the consequences of which no State or individual can escape. The refusal of the Security Council to condemn these acts of terrorism is simply an immoral position and directly encourages those groups to continue killing and committing acts of destruction.

The Syrian Government has put forward a programme for achieving a political solution to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic that is based on a Syrian-led dialogue among the Syrian people. This is the only way to achieve security and stability in Syria, the region and the world. Syria hopes that those States that have adopted double standards and offered pretexts in support of criminals and murders will reconsider their positions and join those who support truth and justice, and who condemn, combat and strive to prevent terrorism.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105 on measures to eliminate international terrorism, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative